



November 14, 2023

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
U.S. Senate  
347 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chris Coons  
U.S. Senate  
218 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Joyce  
U.S. House Of Representatives  
152 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kim Schrier  
U.S. House Of Representatives  
1110 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senator Ernst, Senator Coons, Representative Joyce, and Representative Schrier:

The undersigned childhood cancer organizations are members of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, consisting of patient advocacy groups, healthcare professionals, and scientific organizations representing Americans who care deeply about childhood cancer. We are writing to offer our endorsement of H.R. 4714/S. 2345, the Pediatricians Accelerate Childhood Therapies Act of 2023 (PACT Act), and we thank you for your support of federally funded pediatric biomedical research.

Each year in the United States, approximately 16,000 children are diagnosed with cancer. Approximately 1 in 263 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with cancer before their 20th birthday. Unfortunately, cancer remains the most common cause of death by disease among children in the United States. Though we have made significant advances to develop better treatments for some childhood cancers, children with cancer rely on continued investments to conduct vital research to find treatments and cures.

Advancements in treatment and cures for children with cancer are not possible without the sustained and expanded availability of federal research awards and consistent investments in the research workforce. Investing in the development of the next generation of pediatric researchers will lead to new ideas, new treatments, and new cures. The PACT Act recognizes the challenges associated with attracting and retaining early-career researchers, including physician-scientists, to careers in pediatric research.

The PACT Act addresses these issues by creating a new Trans-NIH career development award focused on early-career pediatric researchers. This bipartisan legislation would also authorize a process to better coordinate and manage the pediatric research portfolio at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), including prioritizing research topic areas and working to align these efforts



with the important research currently underway at NIH, including critical childhood cancer research. The PACT Act would build a strong pediatric physician research workforce for the future while also better coordinating pediatric research across NIH, which will improve care and treatment for children with cancer and childhood cancer survivors.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of children with cancer. We look forward to working with you to enact the PACT Act. Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Rosalie Abbott, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at [rosalie.abbott@stbaldricks.org](mailto:rosalie.abbott@stbaldricks.org) or Dr. Michael Link, Co-Chair of the Alliance for Childhood Cancer, at [mlink@stanford.edu](mailto:mink@stanford.edu).

Sincerely,

**The Alliance for Childhood Cancer**

American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Childhood Cancer Organization  
Andrew McDonough B+ Foundation  
Association for Clinical Oncology  
American Society of Pediatric Hematology/Oncology  
Association of Pediatric Hematology-Oncology Nurses  
Association of Pediatric Oncology Social Workers  
Children's Brain Tumor Foundation  
Children's Cancer Cause  
Children's Cancer Research Fund  
Children's Oncology Group  
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute  
The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society  
Mattie Miracle Cancer Foundation  
MIB Agents  
National Brain Tumor Society  
Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation  
Rally Foundation for Childhood Cancer Research  
St. Baldrick's Foundation  
St. Jude Children's Research Hospital